

**From:** rich@lesh.net@inetgw  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
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**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

Hello,

I am writing because I believe that the proposed Microsoft Settlement is a very bad idea.

You are obviously aware of all the arguments on both sides so I won't go into them all. But basically my opinion is this...

Microsoft is a convicted predatory monopolist. They have not admitted to their wrongdoing, do not seem to understand what they have done wrong and continue to figure out ways around the law to monopolize other markets. They have been convicted more than once, one would think they would learn.

Because of this, a behavioral remedy is out of the question. It is too costly and difficult for the court to manage, and as Microsoft's past behavior has shown, they will work around the remedy.

A structural remedy is the only effective solution. To restore competition to this market and to stop the predatory behavior, Microsoft must be broken into competing OS and Applications companies, maybe three OS and three Applications companies. This worked in the Standard Oil case and monopolizing the computer market is equivalent to the wrong Standard Oil did in monopolizing the oil market. The computer market is as critical to our economy as the oil market was 100 years ago. It can not be left in the hands of a twice convicted monopolist for the sake of our economy.

Breaking Microsoft into an OS company and an Applications company as was the previous remedy is flawed because it creates two monopolies. It is as bad as the AT&T break up which did not create competing entities with the regional Bells. The whole purpose of anti-trust laws is to restore competition. Please do this by breaking Microsoft into competing units.

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